I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15.

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The President will call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Public Health

Introduction of the village aid scheme in this Presidency.

*1658 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the Government propose to try the village aid scheme in any place in this Presidency?

A.—The Government do not propose to introduce the village aid scheme in this Presidency.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know the reasons which induced the Government to give up the idea of introducing the village aid scheme?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"They are already committed to the scheme of rural dispensaries. When the scheme is working satisfactorily there is no reason why we should discard it and go in for another scheme concerning the efficiency of which nobody knows anything."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"Has this scheme been tried with success in the Bombay Presidency?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"How does this question arise?"

Agriculture

Opening of a cattle-breeding farm in South Kanara.

*1659 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: With reference to the answer to my question No. 1355 answered on 24th January 1928, will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) the reasons which have led the Government to consider it unnecessary to open a cattle-breeding farm in South Kanara; and

(*b*) whether in view of the necessity of improving the condition of cattle, they propose at least to keep breeding bulls and buffaloes at every taluk headquarters in the district?

2nd March 1928]

A.—(*a*) The breed suitable for the West Coast is the Scindhe and this is being bred at the Hosur Cattle Farm. The Government do not propose to open new farms until work in this and other existing farms has been consolidated and developed.

(*b*) Bulls as they become available are being distributed by the Director of Agriculture with reference to the needs of the Presidency as a whole. The claims of the South Kanara district will receive due consideration.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" With regard to the answer to clause (*b*), may I know whether the difficulty is in getting bulls or in finding the money for them ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Either or both, Sir, according to circumstances."

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Occupation of the mantapam at Tirumalai by the Police.

*1660 Q.—Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that the thousand pillared mantapam in Tirumalai (the Tirupati Hills) has been converted into rooms at the cost of the Tirupati Devasthanam for the accommodation and convenience of pilgrims that visit the shrine in all parts of the year ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that ten rooms in the first two rows which are the best part of the mantapam are being occupied by the police staff at a nominal rent of one rupee for eight rooms and two rupees for two rooms per mensem ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that owing to such occupation the pilgrims are obliged to seek accommodation elsewhere ; and

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to take immediate steps to provide separate quarters for the police staff and vacate the mantapam for the convenience of pilgrims ?

A.—(*a*) The Government understand that the thousand pillared mantapam at Tirumalai was converted into rooms at the cost of the Devasthanam not only for the convenience of the pilgrims but also to provide accommodation for the Devasthanam offices and officers.

(*b*) It is reported that out of the 59 rooms ten are occupied by the police for rent, and 43 by Devasthanam officers, while stores are kept in the remaining six rooms.

(*c*) None of the rooms being available for pilgrims, several sheds have lately been constructed for their accommodation.

(*d*) The question will not arise until it is raised by the Devasthanam authoritie .